(b) a medium term export strategy for 2002—07 has been announced which aims at achieving 1% of world exports by the year 2006-07, The EXIM Policy for 2002—07 announced recently has also incorporated a number of measures to proactivcly promote exports which *inter alia* include permitting off shore Banking units in Special Economic Zones, transport subsidy for export of certain agricultural products, development of centers of export excellence, additional support for electronic hardware exports and further reduction in transaction cost.

Deterioration of basic industries

† 2399. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of basic industries of the country is being deteriorated day by day and growth rate has been merely 2.7 per cent as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the performance of petroleum, coal, power sector and steel sector has been very poor and the growth rate has declined to 1.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the condition of these sectors and make them remunerative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The six infrastructure industries namely, Crude petroleum. Petroleum Refinery Products, Coal, Electricity, Cement, and Finished steel registered a growth rate of 2.7 per cent during April—February 2002 as against 5.6 per cent for April—February 2001.

(c) Petroleum refinery products, Electricity and Finished steel egistered positive but lower growth rates during April—February 2002 vis-a-vis April—February 2001. Crude petroleum registered a negative growth rate while Coal and Cement registered a positive

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and better growth rate *vis-a-vis* April—February 2001. The details of growth rates for these sectors arc given below.

	April—Feb 2001	April—Feb 2002
Crude Petroleum	1.3	-1.7
Petroleum Refinery products	21.6	4.5
Electricity	4.1	2.9
Coal	4.0	4.1
Finished steel	7.5	1.5
Cement	-0.7	8.7

(d) The government has taken following initiatives to improve performance of these sectors:

Launch of PMs Mega Road Projects, which will boost demand for cement and steel industries.

The Government has announced guidelines for allowing 100% FDI in the development of integrated townships and regional urban infrastructure. This is expected to boost housing /real estate sector and also boost production in cement and steel sectors.

Tax holiday for infrastructure development and tax incentives for housing sector have been announced.

The Government has signed MoU with States to reform SEBs, and initiated steps, which include time bound Programme for installation of 100% metering, energy audit at all levels, specific programmes for reduction and eventual elimination of power theft.

Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme with an enhanced plan allocation of Rs. 3500 crores has been announced in the Union Budget 2002-03 with a renewed focus on transmission and distribution.

Government is taking steps to increase the domestic production of crude oil by offering blocks under the new exploration licensing policy.

Administered Price Mechanism (APM) for petroleum products has been phased out. The pricing of petroleum products will now be market determined.